

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

Albanian Archdiocese - OCA

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Philadelphia, PA 19115

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Rev. Nicholas Dellermann – Rector (860-861-7468)

SUNDAY, MAY 12

Antipascha, 2nd Sunday of Pascha

St. Thomas Sunday

Tone 7 **Troparion** **(Pentecostarion)**

*From the sealed tomb, Thou didst shine forth, O Life!
Through closed doors Thou didst come to Thy Disciples, O Christ God.
Renew in us through them an upright spirit,
by the greatness of Thy mercy, O Resurrection of all!*

Tone 8 **Kontakion** **(Pentecostarion)**

*Thomas touched Thy life-giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God,
when Thou camest to Thine Apostles through closed doors.
He cried out with all: "Thou art my Lord and my God!"*

✠ Prokeimenon ✠

Tone 3 *(from the Pentecostarion)*

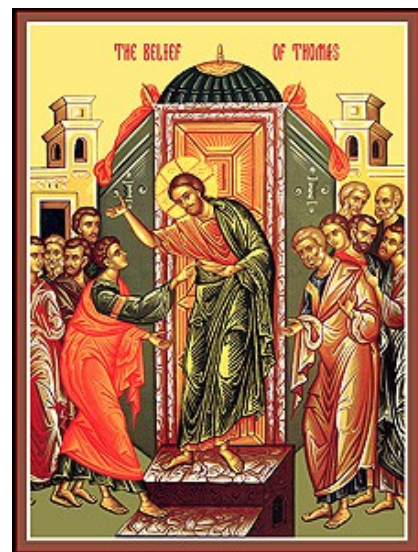
Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, / His understanding is beyond measure. *(Ps. 146:5)*

V. Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God! *(Ps. 146:1)*

Antipascha: Saint Thomas Sunday

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." The Slavonic inscription is, "The Belief of Thomas." When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as "Antipascha." This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek



✠ The Epistle Reading ✠

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

Veprat E Apostujve 5:12-20

Edhe me anë të duarve të apostujve bëheshin shumë shenja e çudira në mes të popullit; edhe ishin me një zemër të gjithë në portikun e Solomonit. Edhe nga të tjerët asnjë s'guxonte të bashkohej me ta; por populli i madhëronte ata. Edhe shtoheshin më shumë duke besuar në Zotin turma burrash e grash; aq sa nxirrnin jashtë nëpër rrugë të sëmurët, edhe i vinin mbi shtresa e mbi shtretër, që kur të shkonte Pjetri të paktën hija e tij të zinte ndonjë nga ata. Edhe mblihdeshin në Jerusalem të gjitha qytetet përreth, edhe sillnin të sëmurët edhe ata që ngiteshin prej frymësh të ndyra, të cilët shëroheshin të gjithë. Atëherë u ngrit kryepriifti dhe gjithë ata që ishin bashkë me të, të cilët ishin sekt i Saduqenjve, edhe u mbushën me smirë; edhe vunë duart e tyre mbi apostujt, edhe i vunë në burgun publik. Po një engjëll i Zotit natën hapi dyert e burgut, edhe si i nxori jashtë, tha: Shkoni, edhe rrini e i flisni popullit në tempull gjithë fjalët e kësaj jete.

Деяния 5:12-20

Руками же Апостолов совершались в народе многие знамения и чудеса; и все единодушно пребывали в притворе Соломоновом. Из посторонних же никто не смел пристать к ним, а народ прославлял их. Верующих же более и более присоединялось к Господу, множество мужчин и женщин, так что выносили больных на улицы и полагали на постелях и кроватях, дабы хотя тень проходящего Петра осенила кого из них. Сходились также в Иерусалим многие из окрестных городов, неся больных и нечистыми духами одержимых, которые и исцелялись все. Первосвященник же и с ним все, принадлежавшие к ереси саддукейской, исполнились зависти, и наложили руки свои на Апостолов, и заключили их в народную темницу. Но Ангел Господень ночью отворил двери темницы и, выведя их, сказал: идите и, став в храме, говорите народу все сии слова жизни.

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! *(Ps. 94:1)*

V. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King over all the earth. *(Ps. 94:3)*

The Gospel Reading

The Gospel According to John 20:19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and My God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.

Ungjilli Sipas Joanit

Në atë ditë pra, të parën e javës, si u ngrys, edhe dyert ishin mbyllur atje ku ishin mbledhur nxënësit nga frika e Judenjve, erdhi Jisui dhe ndenji në mes, edhe u thotë atyre: Paqe mbi ju. Edhe si tha këtë, u tregoi atyre duart dhe brinjën e tij. U gëzuan pra nxënësit kur panë Zotin. Edhe Jisui pra u tha atyre përsëri: Paqe mbi ju. Siç më dërgoi Ati, edhe unë ju dërgoj ju. Edhe si tha këtë, fryu dhe u thotë atyre: Merrni Frymë të Shenjtë. Kujtdo që t'u falni mëkatet, u janë falur atyre; kujtdo që t'ua mbani, u janë mbajtur. Po Thomai, një nga të dymbëdhjetët, që quhet Binjak, nuk ishte bashkë me ata, kur erdhi Jisui. Nxënësit e tjerë i thoshin pra: Pamë Zotin. Po ai u tha atyre: Në mos pafsha në duart e tij shenjën e gozhdëve, edhe të vë gishtin tim në shenjën e gozhdëve, edhe të vë gishtin në brinjën e tij, s'kam për të besuar. Edhe pas tetë ditësh përsëri ishin brenda nxënësit e tij, edhe Thomai me ata. Vjen Jisui, ndonëse dyert ishin mbyllur, dhe ndenji në mes e tha: Paqe mbi ju. Pastaj i thotë Thomait: Sill gishtin tënd këtu, edhe shih duart e mia; edhe sill dorën tënde e vëre në brinjën time, edhe mos u bëj i pabesë, po besëtar. Edhe Thomai u përgjigj, e i tha: Zoti im dhe Perëndia im. Jisui i thotë: Sepse më pe, besove. Lum ata që nuk panë dhe besuan. Edhe shumë çudira të tjera bëri Jisui përpara nxënësve të tij, të cilat nuk janë shkruar në këtë libër. Po këto u shkruan që të besoni se Jisui është Krishti, i Biri i Perëndisë, edhe duke besuar të keni jetë në emrin e tij.

От Иоанна 20:19-31

В тот же первый день недели вечером, когда двери [дома], где собирались ученики Его, были заперты из опасения от Иудеев, пришел Иисус, и стал посреди, и говорит им: мир вам! Сказав это, Он показал им руки и ноги и ребра Свои. Ученики обрадовались, увидев Господа. Иисус же сказал им вторично: мир вам! как послал Меня Отец, [так] и Я посылаю вас. Сказав это, дунул, и говорит им: примите Духа Святаго. Кому простите грехи, тому простятся; на ком оставите, на том останутся. Фома же, один из двенадцати, называемый Близнаец, не был тут с ними, когда приходил Иисус. Другие ученики сказали ему: мы видели Господа. Но он сказал им: если не увижу на руках Его ран от гвоздей, и не вложу перста моего в раны от гвоздей, и не вложу руки моей в ребра Его, не поверю. После восьми дней опять были в доме ученики Его, и Фома с ними. Пришел Иисус, когда двери были заперты, стал посреди них и сказал: мир вам! Потом говорит Фоме: подай перст твой сюда и посмотри руки Мои; подай руку твою и вложи в ребра Мои; и не будь неверующим, но верующим. Фома сказал Ему в ответ: Господь мой и Бог мой! Иисус говорит ему: ты поверил, потому что увидел Меня; блаженны невидевшие и уверовавшие. Много сотворил Иисус пред учениками Своими и других чудес, о которых не писано в книге сей. Сие же написано, дабы вы уверовали, что Иисус есть Христос, Сын Божий, и, веруя, имели жизнь во имя Его.



(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing the following)

*The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:
"Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,
thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
With Himself He has raised all the dead."
Rejoice, O ye people!*

*Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!
The glory of the Lord has shone on thee.
Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
in the Resurrection of thy Son!*

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise thy God, O Zion! *(Ps. 147:1)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Living Our Lives in Total Commitment

Christianity is a religion of asceticism, instructing us to store up our treasures in heaven, where the benefits have eternal value. Throughout the New Testament we read of the importance of struggle, where focus on the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart is paramount to what it means to be a Christian. The Lord Jesus Christ tells us that if we are to be worthy of Him, we must be willing to take up our cross and follow Him. We are to be a people whose true homeland is Christ's Kingdom, which is within. Christ Himself calls us to holiness, and this change of heart can only be brought about through struggle. Our world places a great deal of emphasis on being comfortable, and we tend to avoid anything that does not bring pleasure. If being open about our Christian faith invites ridicule, we remain silent. If keeping the fasting rules of the Church prevents us from enjoying evenings out with our friends, we ignore the fast. If voicing disapproval when hearing our Christian faith being trashed makes us appear less cool, we choose to go the route of the politically correct. Is it any wonder we are therefore unprepared to stand firm when faced with real trials that come our way, having avoided the very things that would transform us into strong, committed Christians?

If we embrace Christianity with dedication of heart and mind, we will receive the power to live in this world, filled as it is, with temptations and disappointments, yet remaining true to our vocation as a holy people. Committing ourselves to being full time Christians, empowers us to live our lives in such a way that we give glory and witness to the very Christ Whom we worship.

If, however, we avoid ascetic struggle, and choose to keep our Christian faith sidelined, and reject real commitment, we will ultimately have become Christian in name only. For those who, out of laziness or personal selfishness, choose to relegate fasting, private prayer, and even church attendance, as something done only when we feel "in the mood", we will stand before the Throne of God, in the end, with a darkened heart that can not withstand the power of God, and eternity will be for us, a lake of fire.

With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon

PRAYERS	Birthdays, Names-days, & Anniversaries	SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK
<i>For Those Who Have Fallen Asleep</i>		
<p>Margie, Linda</p> <p><i>[To be inserted after the petition for the departed]</i> Again we pray for those who have lost their lives because of conflicts in Ukraine, Armenia, and the Middle East: that the Lord our God may look upon them with mercy, and give them rest where there is neither sickness, or sorrow, but life everlasting.</p>	<p><i>April 14-20</i> Kristina Nikolla – B Belinda Mentzer – B Rose Shaloka - B Jennifer Navon – B Dave Navon – B Sharon Spause – B Dave Spause - B</p> <p><u>Seven-Day Vigil Candles</u></p>	<p><u>Church Lectionary</u></p> <p><i>Today</i> Acts 5:12-20 John 20:19-31</p> <p><i>Monday</i> Acts 3:19-26 John 2:1-11</p>
<i>For Those Who Are Sick And Home-bound</i>		
<p>Virginia, Denise, Marie, James, Alexandra, Andrew, Christina, Louise, Porter, Alvin, Tracy, Kathy, Andrew, Maria, Helen, John, Nina, Sophia, Spresha, Kristin, Niko, Spiro, Angjeliki, Melod, Olgay, Ruth, Terry, Naomi, Annette, Tatiana, Lester Jr., Natalia, Otari, Lasha, Fr. Nikolas, Llukan, Marina, Sophia, Fr. Maxwell, Christina, Anastasia, Mary, Martin, Elena, Tatiana, Lauren, Tracy, Anita, Sandi, Anibal, Kakha, Christina, Jane, Vano</p>	<p>Llukan Dylgjeri – health Tina Murianka - Health</p> <p>Seven-Day Vigil Candles are used for the Eternal Light that hangs above the Royal Doors and are often placed in front of the icons of Christ or the Birth-giver of God. If you would like to donate a Seven-Day Vigil Candle, Please include the name or names of those for whom the candle is</p>	<p><i>Tuesday</i> Acts 4:1-10 John 3:16-21</p> <p><i>Wednesday</i> Acts 4:13-22 John 5:17-24</p>
<i>Prayers In General</i>		
<p>The community of Ss. Peter & Paul Miami, Fr. Dennis and his family, Fr. Ioan, Christian, Michael, Erica, Kaida, DuDash family, Michael, Robert, Ally, Steve, Jake and Amanda and their children, Katherine, Ron, Anthony, Volodymyr, Nick, Michael, Rafael, Bob, Barbara, Sandra, Enoch, John, Victoria, Melenie, Grace, Michael, Barbara, Giorgi, Molly, Jim, Chloe, Marsha, Ann, Lilly, Stephen, Gela, Gabriel Joseph, Lombrino, Kondakciu, Diana, Tyler, Alexi, Nora</p>	<p>donated, and we will place them in this section for special prayers.</p>	<p><i>Thursday</i> Acts 4:23-31 John 5:24-30</p> <p><i>Friday</i> Acts 5:1-11 John 5:30-47; 6:1-2</p>
<i>Prayers In General</i>		
<p><i>[To be inserted after the petition for the living]</i> Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, for those who are suffering, wounded, grieving, or displaced because of the conflicts in Ukraine, Armenia, and the Middle East.</p> <p><i>[Petitions at Augmented Litany]</i> Again we pray for a cessation of the hostilities in Ukraine, Armenia, and the Middle East, and that reconciliation and peace will flourish in these places, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COFFEE HOUR</p> <p>Coffee Hour is a wonderful chance for us to get together to break bread and spend time with each other, to celebrate those whom we have held memorials for, and to come together as the family of God outside of worship. To sign up, to host a coffee hour, contact Fr. Nicholas or Donna Bacon.</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i> Acts 5:21-32 John 6:14-27</p> <p><u>Reading the Bible in a Year</u></p> <p>May 12: Psalms 53-56 May 13: Psalms 57-60 May 14: Psalms 61-64 May 15: Psalms 65-68 May 16: Psalms 69-72 May 17: Psalms 73-76 May 18: Psalms 77-80</p>

Articles and Announcements



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V. Rev. Mark Doku
Chancellor

Holy Pascha 2024

Brothers and Sisters,

Christ comes to us. Prepared or not, He is here. And this is the great mystery of our faith, that though He beckons and encourages us towards growth and toward leading lives of greater holiness, He never fails to meet us where we are. In His own earthly ministry, this was a constant source of friction, for who can believe in someone holy who seems so often to keep company with the disreputable? Not just outcasts, but the very untouchable of His age were His closest familiars. He is marked by them, tainted even in the eyes of His apostles as unsavory company.

At Pashka, we celebrate Christ's lowest descent. Judged, tortured, marked as worthless by empire, village, and church, the poverty of His death finds even His tomb borrowed, on loan from a friend of markedly more distinguished status. His funeral rites are rushed because tomorrow and its needs keep tumbling forward. But it is there in the grave of disgrace, where He is Lord. Dusty and tired and rejected, He owns those things we fear, and He rises from them.

What the tomb could not contain, we celebrate today. Marked in our own minds by things we have done or left undone and all the hurts we have failed to solve so far in our lives, it is tempting to think we must leave them behind to meet Him, more tempting to think our faith tells us to. But ours is not a religion of purity, certainly not one of self-improvement. Christ rises from the grave because we need company there; we need assurance that there is hope for those who have not yet gotten things right.

Where we are is where Christ insists on being. The anaphora of St. Basil we have repeated each Sunday of Lent makes this clear:

Descending through the Cross into hell—that He might fill all things with Himself—He loosed the pangs of death. He arose on the third day, having made for all flesh a path to the resurrection from the dead, since it was not possible for the Author of Life to be a victim of corruption. So He became the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep, the first-born of the dead, that He might be Himself truly the first in all things.

As we kindle shared fire this Saturday night, walking forward to Sunday morning, we recall Him as with us, fearlessly willing to stoop down where we are and guiding us to arise.

Christ is risen! Krishti u ngjall!



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Pashka e Shenjtë 2024

Vëllezër dhe motra,

Krishti vjen tek ne. Jemi ose jo të përgatitur, Ai është këtu. Dhe ky është misteri i madh i besimit tonë, se megjithëse Ai na bën thirrje dhe na inkurajon drejtrritjes duke drejtuar jetë me shenjtëri më të madhe, Ai nuk dështon kurrë të na takojë atje ku jemi. Në vetë shërbesën e Tij tokësore, ky ishte një burim i vazhdueshëm fërkimesh, sepse kush mund të besojë në dikë të shenjtë i cili duket kaq shpesh se bën shoqëri me të pandershmët? Jo vetëm të dëbuarit, por edhe të paprekshmit e kohës së Tij ishin familjarët e Tij më të afërt. Ai bëhet me shenjë prej tyre, i njollosur edhe në sytë e apostujve të Tij si një shoqëri e padëshiruar.

Gjatë Pashkës, ne festojmë pësimet më të ulta të Krishtit. I gjykuar, i torturuar, i shënuar si i pavlefshëm nga Perandoria, fshati dhe Kisha, varfëria e vdekjes së Tij e gjen edhe varrin e Tij të huazuar, huazuar nga një mik i një statusi dukshëm më të dalluar. Ritet e tij funerale janë të nxituara, sepse e nesërnya dhe nevojat e saj janë të tilla. Por është atje në varrin e përunjesisë, ku Ai është Zot. I pluhurosur, i lodhur dhe i rrefuzuar, Ai zotëron ato gjëra që ne i frikësohemi dhe Ai ngrihet prej tyre.

Ne festojmë sot, Atë që varri nuk e mbante dot. Duke qënë të shënuar në mendjen tonë nga gjërat që kemi bërë ose i kemi lënë pa bërë dhe nga të gjitha lëndimet që nuk kemi arritur t'i zgjidhim deri tani në jetën tonë, është tunduese të mendojmë se duhet t'i lëmë pas për ta takuar Atë, me tunduese akoma është të mendojmë se besimi ynë na e thotë ta bëjmë atë. Por feja jonë nuk është një fe e pastërtisë, sigurisht nuk është një fe e vetë-përmirësimit. Krishti ngrihet nga varri sepse ne kemi nevojë për shoqëri atje, ne kemi nevojë për siguri se ka shpresë për ata që ende nuk i kanë bërë gjërat siç duhet.

Atje ku jemi ne është vendi ku Krishti insiston të jetë. Anafora e Shën Vasilit që kemi përsëritur çdo të diel të Kreshmës e bën të qartë këtë:

Duke zbritur me anën e Kryqit në Hadh, që të plotësojë tërë misionin e Tij, dhuku dhimbjet e vdekjes; dhe pasi u ngjall të tretën ditë dhe i çeli çdo trupi rrugën e ngjallës prej së vdekuresh, meqë nuk ishte e mundur të zotërohej prej prishjes Kryetari i jetës, u bë fillimi i të fjeturve, i paralinduri i të vdekuurve, që të jetë Ai gjithçka, duke qënë i pari në të gjitha.

Teksa shpërndajmë zjarrin këtë të shtunë mbrëma, duke ecur gjatë mëngjesit të së Dieles, ne e kujtojmë Atë si të ishte me ne, të gatshëm pa frikë të përulemi aty ku jemi dhe të na udhëheqë që të ngrihemi.

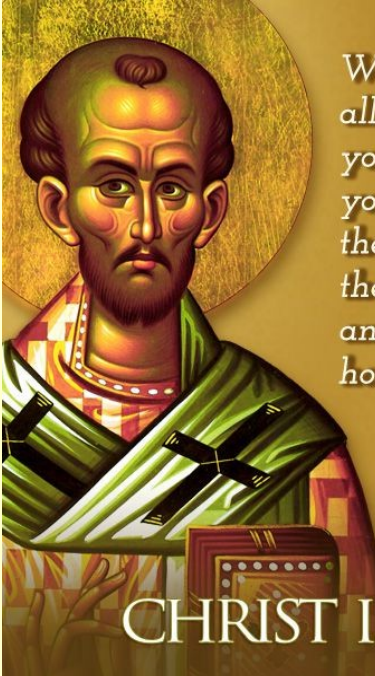
Krishti u ngjall! Christ is risen!

Blessing of the Graves Schedule

Sunday, May 12 1:30pm Oakland
 Monday, May 27 10:00am Fernwood
 Sunday June 9 1:30pmForrest Hills

Sunday, May 26 1:30pm Lawnview
 Sunday June 2 1:30pm Magnolia

These are cemeteries with multiple members of our parish buried there. Ask Father to schedule any graves not on the list.

May Events	
<p>May 12 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy 1:30pm Blessing of the Graves (Oakland) 15 – 12:00pm Sixth Hour 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets 16 – 7:00pm Money and Salvation Discussion 17 – 7:30am Matins 19 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy 22 – 12:00pm Sixth Hour 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets 24 – 7:30am Matins 26 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy 1:30pm Blessing of the Graves (Lawnview) 27 – 10:00am Blessing of the Graves (Fernwood) 29 – 12:00pm Sixth Hour 7:15pm Bible Study via GoogleMeets</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Can't join us in person? We stream our services on our YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@sspeterpaulorthodoxhurcho1810</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Want to donate by Venmo? St Peter St Paul Alb Orth Ch James Schaeffer</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> ✪ • ✪ • ✪ </div> <div style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;"> <p><i>Wherefore, enter ye all into the joy of your Lord; receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival!</i></p> <p><small>~ The Paschal Sermon of Saint John Chrysostom</small></p> </div>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">CHRIST IS <i>Risen!</i></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">LENT.GOARCH.ORG</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> ✪ • ✪ • ✪ </div>

Happy Mother's Day

to all women in the nurturing roles of mothers, godmothers, grandmothers, and aunts, whether it is through blood or adoption!

“A mother is clothed with strength and dignity, laughs without fear of the future. When she speaks her words are wise and she gives instructions with kindness.” —Proverbs